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CHINA-INDONESIA: Normalizing Relations

[redacted]
[redacted] China and Indonesia announced plans to normalize relations last week after meetings in Tokyo between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian and Indonesia's President Soeharto and Minister of State Moerdiono. Relations were suspended in 1967 when Indonesia accused Beijing of complicity in the 1965 coup attempt by the Indonesian Communist Party. [redacted]

Comment: Indonesia is already China's second-largest trading partner among ASEAN member states after Singapore, and Beijing is probably more interested in diplomatic ties as a step to complete restoration of its relations with Southeast Asia than in economic gains. Soeharto appears satisfied with China's assurances that all ties to the outlawed Communist Party have been severed. Jakarta, however, would like to move slowly and limit the Chinese diplomatic presence to avoid stirring up military opposition and volatile anti-Chinese sentiment. [redacted]

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